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COMMANDERS DIGEST

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Under-Strength Divisions Part of Training Plan

Some Army stateside divisions are below full combat-ready status, but this is according to plan, according to a Defense spokesman.

It was recognized that some divisions would have to be used for training once the decision was made not to call up the Reserves, the spokesman said. "So the present status is not surprising, but was planned that way."

Divisions mentioned are the 1st and 2d Armored, 4th Infantry and 5th Mechanized. Some of these, he said, are expected to reach full combat readiness status by June.

The spokesman referred to previously announced figures. He said another 21 combat-ready divisions could be deployed to Southeast Asia between now and the end of June, if required.

This could be accomplished, he said, without calling up the Reserves or National Guard, making 64 combat-ready battalions in Southeast Asia.

In an emergency the equivalent of nine combat-ready division forces could be ready for deployment in 90 days, the spokesman said. This could be accomplished by a Reserve call-up and extending enlistment terms and RVN tours.

"Obviously, we have not called the Reserves and we have requirements for recruit and draftee training," he concluded.

Improved Promotion Systems Sought in Manpower Study

Defense Department manpower officials are studying ways to improve promotion systems to assure that individuals are accorded rank or grade commensurate with responsibility and contribution.

The study is part of an overall evaluation of manpower management.

Other means being considered for consideration and reward are:

- Utilize special pays and bonuses to meet critical shortages and retention problems and to recognize extra hazardous duties.
- Utilize the system of special awards and recognition to encourage above average performance.

Action is planned to develop a basis for comparing total compensation of military and civilian personnel.

MINUTEMAN FLAG—Mr. Marty Miller, senior sales representative, Savings Bond Div., U.S. Treasury Dept., presents a Minuteman Flag to Maj. Gen. Joe S. Lawrie, 82d Airborne commander (second from right), and Sgt. Maj. Albert H. Rowe, division sergeant major, in ceremonies at Ft. Bragg, N.C. The award was given for more than 90 percent participation in U.S. Savings Bond program for last four years.

Army Seeking 10,000 Retired Enlisted Personnel for Recall

Army is offering a one-grade advancement to some 10,000 critical-skill retired enlisted personnel who volunteer for a two-year recall to active duty.

A board will select personnel under 54 years of age, retired in grades E–5 and E–6, in some 200 MOS skills where critical shortages exist in Engineer, Ordnance, Medical and Signal.

Selectees will be advanced one grade higher than the grade in which retired.

Spot promotions will also be given to in-service personnel with more than 20 years service currently working in one of the MOS's.

Officials emphasized the expanded recall program will not have an impact on active duty personnel including promotion aspects, since it comes under a special increment.

Those selected for recall will be notified by letter and cannot apply prior to notification. Officials have screened records and began mailing letters April 1.

Washington Memos

WESTERN EUROPE PRESENTS picture of unprecedented prosperity and stability in large part because of U.S. assistance in rehabilitating war-ravaged economies and bolstering defenses. Of 14 original Western Europe recipients of U.S. grant aid—including both NATO and non–NATO countries—only four will continue to receive this aid in FY67. Programs continue for Spain and Portugal with Norway and Denmark due to be phased out when prior year commitments are completed in near future.

COUNTRIES COMING UNDER proposed FY67 Military Assistance Program (MAP) number an estimated 55 which fall into five regional groupings; Far East, Near East-South Asia, Latin America, Africa, and Europe. This aid provides what is described as an important instrument of U.S. foreign policy and a significant extension of nation's defense posture.

ARMED CONFLICT OUTBREAK in Asia between India and Pakistan resulted in United States suspension of military aid and commercial sales deliveries last September. Since then, ban has been modified permitting selected and limited commercial credit sales on non-lethal military equipment on case-by-case basis.

ONCE AGAIN, ABOUT three-fourths of total military assistance program has been allocated to the 10 countries adjacent to Soviet Russia and Communist China borders. This is where U.S. forward strategy draws front lines of free world common defense.

PRESIDENT JOHNSON'S REQUEST to Congress for 1966 suplemental appropriations for various agencies includes $3 million for the Veterans Administration for general operating expenses involved in handling inquiries and applications for educational assistance, home loans, loan guarantees, and other benefits for veterans under newly enacted Veterans Readjustment Act of 1966.

AIR FORCE HAS adopted Navy's aircraft arresting barriers for use at air bases. Arresting barrier is wire cable strung across both ends of runway to keep aircraft from running off. Cable is attached to nylon tape reels which unwind as plane hooked to barrier skids toward end of runway, slowing aircraft to a stop. System has been used on Navy aircraft carriers to save aircraft and pilots.

DOD VOTING OFFICIALS have called special attention to repeal-of-poll-tax action by Supreme Court. Decision concerned Alabama, Virginia, and Mississippi. Two states—Virginia and Mississippi—have waived requirement for servicemen to pay poll tax. Dependents of military personnel in Mississippi are also exempt. Taxes recently enacted new voter registration law which abolished payment of poll tax.

A 100-BED HOSPITAL in downtown Saigon, formerly administered by the U.S. Navy, has become the 17th Field Hospital under operational control of Army's 1st Logistical Command. It is the smallest of three field hospitals in-country and ninth under control of the command.

MOBILE FIRE DIRECTION center has been developed by unit of 19th Artillery, 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile), at An Khe, RVN. Portable center is cut-down jeep with plywood floor for mounting two VRC–46 radios and their power source. Power is generated by two 2½–ton truck batteries.

U.S. NAVAL ORDNANCE Test Station's Research Department has announced progress in construction of a new ultra-high vacuum electron microscope. The advanced instrument, offering new capabilities in the study of surfaces, has been under development for four years by Dr. Ernst G. Bauer and George H. Turner, of Research Department's Physics Division.

ARMY PERSONNEL AT Ft. Gordon, Ga., slated for assignment to Vietnam now receive a 16-hour orientation on the Southeast Asia country's geography, history, people, customs and culture, and objective of U.S. forces in Vietnam. Orientation is held in classrooms and in the field.

OFFICE OF NAVAL Research, Washington, will celebrate its 20th anniversary May 4. Government officials and leading scientists from United States and abroad will join ceremonies. Office was established by President Truman under Public Law 588, in 1946.

ARMY IS FIRST to implement its cash awards program offering up to $25,000 to its uniformed members. Other services are expected to follow soon. Each service will make payments from appropriated funds for suggestions, inventions or scientific achievement approved or adopted on or after Sept. 22, 1965.

CAPT. JERRY W. LEDIN, USMC, was presented Silver Star, Bronze Star and Purple Heart Medals March 29, by Gen. Wallace M. Greene, Jr., CMC, for performance of duty in RVN. Capt. Ledin is now assigned to Service Plans Section, G–3 Division, HQMC.

A WORLDWIDE CONFERENCE of Air Force representatives conferred at Shaw AFB, S.C., early this month to discuss tactical air reconnaissance-intelligence operations and plans to increase their effectiveness.

TOTAL NUMERICAL STRENGTH of U.S. Armed Forces, Feb. 28, 1966, based on preliminary reports, was 2,935,562, representing increase of 33,265 from Jan. 31, 1966, combined strength figure, 2,902,297.

SINCE PLACED ON sale in 1941, nearly 10 billion individual U.S. Savings Stamps have been sold. They are available at post offices and through weekly "Stamp Days" in schools.

DEFENSE LANGUAGE INSTITUTE Headquarters has distributed foreign language training program for FY67. Program calls for more training of military personnel in languages than in any other year. Military services have asked Institute to train 8,300 students in 56 languages in FY67.

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DOD Backs Proposed Aid Raise to Ryukyus

Proposed legislation to raise U.S. aid authorization to the Ryukyu Islands from $12 million to $25 million annually has received endorsement from DOD.

Thaddeus Holt, Army Deputy Under Secretary for International Affairs, represented DOD in Congressional testimony supporting HR 12617 to amend the Price Act.

He cited the key role of the islands, specifically Okinawa, in helping the United States meet commitments in the Western Pacific area.

It was revealed that, despite U.S. aid, the Ryukyuans still require considerable help to bring them up to the level of comparable areas of Japan in such programs as public health, education, and social welfare.

The peace treaty with Japan placed the United States in full power for administration, legislation, and jurisdiction over the islands. Japan, however, did not renounce claim and has expressed a desire to reassert its rights as soon as Far East tensions abate.

Alaska Purchase Centennial Important in U.S. Heritage

Through restoration of historic relics, the Alaska Purchase Centennial in 1967 will "preserve for all time an important part of the American heritage."

President Johnson made this statement while signing a bill for United States' participation in the celebration, the 100th anniversary of this country's purchase of Alaska from Russia.

"It is appropriate that all Americans should participate in this Centennial celebration," he stated, "because the acquisition of the territory which has become the largest State in our Union was a milestone event for our entire country."

President Johnson noted, "When the Stars and Stripes were unfurled over what is now Sitka, Alaska, Oct. 18, 1867, the destiny of the North American Continent was permanently altered."

7th AF Reactivation Brings WWII Unit Back to Combat

The U.S. 7th Air Force was reactivated in Vietnam April 1, bringing a major World War II combat air force back into combat service in the Pacific.

The announcement by Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John P. McConnell said the 7th Air Force will assume functions and responsibilities of its predecessor, the 2nd Air Division.

A subordinate command of Pacific Air Forces, the 7th Air Division is responsible for all Air Force combat air strike, air support and air defense operations in mainland Southeast Asia.

MARINE HONORED—Lt. Col. Robert N. Smith, USMC, CO, VMF(AW)–451, received a special Command at Sea emblem while embarked on the aircraft carrier USS Forrestal *in the Mediterranean. Normally, only Naval officers wear the emblem. Lt. Col. Smith received his emblem from Cdr. O. H. Oberg (left) as Capt. H. S. Moore, carrier CO, presented the citation.*

USAF to Permit Extensions By Certain Reserve Officers

Air Force is permitting voluntary one-year extensions of active duty for certain reserve officers and non-regular warrant officers scheduled for release during FY66 and FY67.

Releases are governed by the 20-Year Active Service Career for Reserve Officers Program.

The voluntary extensions are being granted to meet increased manpower requirement with experienced resources, officials said.

Controlled dates of separation of affected officers have been extended for one year officials said, however, an officer may either serve the extra year or voluntarily apply for retirement or release under current regulations.

There are 3,900 officers eligible for the one-year extension.

The extension does not apply to officers being retired or separated for physical disability or those scheduled for mandatory retirement or separation.

Combat Pay Recipients Should Check W-2 Form

Military personnel who have served in Vietnam have been urged to examine their W–2 income tax withholding statement carefully.

Officials say that combat zone pay—which is tax free—may not have been excluded from their total taxable income in all cases. Such errors are particularly apt to occur in cases of those who served in Vietnam on temporary duty status.

AWACS Development Program Proceeding

Boeing, Douglas, and Lockheed aircraft companies, under contract to the Air Force, have completed studies concerning the possibility of developing a new long-range, jet powered command and control system.

They are under new $250,000 contracts to provide competitive proposals by June 1966 for development of a prototype Airborne Warning and Control System (AWACS). The Air Defense Command and Tactical Air Command have jointly developed concepts of operation for employment of an AWACS which will use identical equipment for both commands.

Top Personnel Award Presented at USAFA Conf.

Air Force's first Outstanding Personnel Manager of the Year award has been presented to Lt. Col. Dale T. Sarrett, Director of Airman Assignments, Hq., USAF Security Service, Kelly AFB, Tex.

The award, presented at the annual Air Force Association convention, recognizes an individual rendering outstanding service or making the most significant contribution to the personnel program during the reporting year.

Also, Outstanding Personnel Management Certificates, signed by Lt. Gen. William S. Stone, Deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel, have been forwarded to major commands for presentation to 11 officers and a senior master sergeant as runners-up for the top award.

CITED—SSgt. Robert C. Bundt, USAF (left), receives the Air Force Commendation Medal for distinguishing himself last November when he attempted to save a Vietnam war-protestor who set himself afire outside the Pentagon. Lt. Gen. Alfred D. Starbird, USA, Director of the Defense Communications Agency presents the award's certificate to SSgt. Bundt, an agency administrative clerk.

Non-Resident Servicemen Can Vote in Four States

Hawaii has joined California, Utah, and West Virginia in permitting servicemen to cast voting ballots while assigned in the State.

The Hawaii legislature decision authorizes servicemen living on and off military installations to vote in national and local elections.

Previously, servicemen in Hawaii could vote only through absentee ballots from their home states, unless they were prior residents of the 50th State.

Defense Comm. Satellite Program Set for Launch

The first of three research and development Titan III–C boosters is scheduled for launching in the near future, carrying eight satellites as part of the Defense Communications Satellite Program.

This disclosure was made by RAdm. F. D. Boyle, USN, Deputy Director, Defense Communications Agency, Communications Satellite Project Office, before the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, Inc., Los Angeles.

Besides providing research and test, he said, "this experimental system will give us also a limited operational capability."

Launches will be approximately two months apart, the admiral stated.

He also said terminals are being placed at key locations around the world to establish a global experimental system. Terminals are now ready at Camp Roberts, Calif., and Ft. Dix, N.J. By midsummer two terminals are expected to be complete in Hawaii and Eritrea, and another in the Philippines.

NASA Satellite to Take Infrared Night Photos

Nimbus–C, NASA's first satellite designed to take nighttime infrared pictures and transmit them directly to relatively inexpensive Automatic Picture Transmission (APT) ground stations, is slated for an April 26 launch.

Eight experimental APT stations are being modified to receive the pictures taken of Earth's cloud cover at night. At present, some 150 APT stations are in existence, including 45 in 24 foreign countries.

PERSONNEL ACTIONS

RAdm. James A. Alger, Jr., USCG, transferred from 1st CG District to 3rd CG District. **RAdm. William H. Childress, USCG,** transferred from HQCG (Operations) to 1st CG District as District Commander. **Brig. Gen. John J. Hayes, USA,** senior logistics advisor to ROK Army, named CO, Desert Test Center, Salt Lake City, Utah. **Maj. Gen. Robert E. Blount, MC, USA,** former CG, William Beaumont General Hospital, El Paso, Tex., assumed command of Fitzsimons General Hospital, Denver, Colo. **Lt. Gen. Sam Maddux, Jr., USAF,** PACAF Vice Commander in Chief, awarded Distinguished Service Medal for duty as CO, 13th Air Force.

CONTRACT AWARDS

U.S. Rubber Co., Providence, R.I.: $2,738,925 fixed-price contract for 500-gallon rubber drums. **(DSA)**

Collins Radio Co., Richardson, Tex.: $1,053,000 modification to an existing contract for work on Pacific Scatter Communications System. **(Army)**

Garrett Corp., AiResearch Manufacturing Co., Phoenix, Ariz.: $2,241,000 modification to an existing contract for T–76–G–6/–8 engines for Air Force and Navy aircraft. **(Navy)**

Douglas Aircraft Co., Inc., Aircraft Div., Long Beach, Calif.: $2,390,871 initial increment to a fixed-price contract for production of bomb ejector racks for F–4 series aircraft. **(Air Force)**

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